

Despite the unquestionable need for health care reform, some have sought to dominate the health care reform discussion with fear mongering, misinterpretations and misinformation. They have stymied the progression of the reform process in the name of fiscal responsibility, bi-partisanship, parliamentary procedure and patriotism.

These justifications are egregious. There is nothing bi-partisan about continually opposing a bill that independent federal agencies have repeatedly recognized as a substantive and reasonable approach to reform. There is nothing fiscally responsible about allowing premiums, state and federal health expenditures to rise to unprecedented levels. There is nothing American about depriving men women and children of the guaranteed right to health care in the richest country on earth.

Today, when Americans across the country are losing their homes, jobs, health insurance and hope, we as elected officials have the opportunity and duty to deliver. We cannot afford to back down. We have come too far and have too much to lose. Extreme times require extreme measures to ensure that we pass a health care reform bill that America needs and deserves.

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